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Public comment period opens on draft bacteria TMDL report for minor tributaries of the Ohio River

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The Kentucky Division of Water has opened a public comment period on a draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report that addresses bacteria impairments in Kentucky in minor tributary watersheds of the Ohio River. The report includes TMDLs for 49 stream segments in the following counties: Ballard, Boyd, Bracken, Breckinridge, Campbell, Crittenden, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Jefferson, Meade, Oldham, and Union.

The Clean Water Act requires each state to periodically identify waters in which water quality standards are not being met, and to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for pollutants in those waters. "Total Maximum Daily Load" is the amount of a pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards; determining this amount is critical in restoring and protecting water quality. A TMDL report contains the TMDL as well as related supporting data and information.

The report is available for review on the Division of Water Public Notice web page at <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Pages/Water-Public-Notices-and-Hearings.aspx>. The report adds one new river-basin-focused appendix (Appendix J) to the Kentucky Statewide Bacteria TMDL, which contains important background information and is also available on the web page. Comments on the draft report submitted by email or mail must be dated or postmarked no later than July 25, 2022. Comments may be sent:

- Via email (*preferred method*) to: TMDL@ky.gov (Subject line: "Statewide Bacteria TMDL")
- Via U.S. Mail to: Water Quality Branch (ATTN: Statewide Bacteria TMDL)
Kentucky Division of Water
300 Sower Blvd., 3rd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601

For assistance, questions, or more information, please contact the TMDL program at TMDL@ky.gov or call 502-564-3410.